

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated April 29, 2008. Claims 1, 3, 9 and 12-16 are pending in the application. Reconsideration and further examination of the application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 9, 12, 14, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Chvojcek (USP 5,395,178), Bodine, Jr. (USP 5,060,638) and Hirade et al. (USP 7,119,267). Claim 13 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chvojcek, Bodine, Jr. and Hirade et al. and further in view of Mercks (US 2002/0009205). Of these, claim 1 is independent.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite “a multiplicity of internal threads are provided on the under surface of said body on said groove, and said internal threads extend in a direction internal to said body and are adapted to be engaged with external threads provided at the upper end of a stand”.

The cited references do not disclose the above recitation. Chvojcek is directed to a system for mating a tripod to a shorthand machine using a key-and-key groove geometry to “ensures proper orientation by engaging a key groove formed in the shorthand machine.” (Col. 3, lines 12-14 of Chvojcek.) Chvojcek’s key-and-key groove geometry is not seen to disclose or to suggest a multiplicity of internal threads provided on the under surface of said body on said groove, and said internal threads extend in a direction internal to said body and are adapted to be engaged with external threads provided at the upper end of a stand. Moreover, the purpose of Chvojcek’s key-and-key groove geometry, that is, to ensure proper orientation by engaging a key groove formed in the shorthand machine, suggests that any modification to remove the key-and-key groove geometry likely would be impermissible, because such a modification would render Chvojcek’s mating system unsuitable for its intended purpose. (See, MPEP 2143.01(V).)

Bodine is directed to an orthopedic restraining device that has an insertable member 40 with a channel-like structure having an open inner region 42 with bendable leaflets 44a and 44b that can slide onto a wheelchair armrest 36. (Col. 6, lines 17-37 of Bodine.) The structure of Bodine is not seen to disclose or to suggest a multiplicity of internal threads provided on the under surface of

said body on said groove, and said internal threads extend in a direction internal to said body and are adapted to be engaged with external threads provided at the upper end of a stand.

Thus, independent claim 1 is believed to be allowable. The remaining claims depend from independent claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5399 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. 393032040600.

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Respectfully submitted,

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